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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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2003

REF ID: A66799

11 August 1954

~~EYES ONLY~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: []

VIA: Chief, WH Division

SUBJECT: Performance of U.S. Army Mission and
Military Attache in Guatemala.

1. Will you kindly, for the EYES ONLY information of the Director and myself, prepare a brief critique or commentary upon the performance of the U.S. Army Mission and the U.S. Military Attache in Guatemala during the period from about 1 March to the date of your departure from Guatemala City. In particular will you comment upon the kind, quantity, and quality of intelligence reported or brought in to the Ambassador by these two Army elements during the period in question. I believe you are quite well aware of the efforts which we made here to get "command channel orders" sent to the Military Mission and/or Military Attache -- to the end that they collect and report intelligence concerning attitudes and positions in the Guatemalan military. At one time during the period in question, when Ambassador Peurifoy was up here on consultation, he told me that he was simply not getting any intelligence or significant reports from the Military Mission and, as I recall, it was following this discussion that we obtained the command channel orders, above referred to.

2. I further suggest that you include in your brief critique a number of the particulars which you gave me orally in our conversation about certain current activities of the Military Attache. This is, of course, a highly sensitive business, since the Agency wishes at all costs to avoid gaining for itself the reputation of watching and reporting on other U.S. officials. However, if you have clear evidence, the accuracy of which you are certain about and which indicates questionable dealings with members of the former regime, etc., I think we are entitled to know about this, at least for our own purposes and very possibly for the purposes of discussing it -- off the record -- with Ambassador Peurifoy.

FRANK G. WISNER
Deputy Director (Plans)

22.4

Attachment:

Confidential memo from General Ridgway
to DCI dated 6 August.

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